

IV.—*Ornithological Notes from Corsica.*

By JOHN WHITEHEAD.

(Plate II.)

ARRIVING in Ajaccio in the middle of November 1882, I remained in the neighbourhood, shooting and collecting birds, until the beginning of January 1883, when I crossed the island to Aleria, and worked my way down the east coast to Bonifacio, and, *viâ* Sartene, back to Ajaccio. A great storm on the 12th March, which lasted three days, added many birds to my list, some of which I did not meet with again. On the 22nd of March I started for Bastia; but as the shooting on the lagoon there proved a failure, I left in two days for Ajaccio by the west coast, but during the whole journey hardly noticed a bird. In April I returned to the east coast, where I remained moving from place to place until the 15th of June. The shooting of the new Nuthatch induced a second trip, but only added thirty birds new to my list. As some of the best days of the season of passage were spent in the mountains, no doubt I missed a few birds.

The following notes are the result of some fifteen months spent in Corsica, most of the time being devoted to shooting. During the hotter months I kept out of the marshes as much as possible, so I was unable to take several interesting nests.

I cannot conclude without thanking several Corsican gentlemen, who did all in their power to assist me, also Mr. R. B. Sharpe for his notes on several species.

1. BEARDED VULTURE. *Gypaëtus barbatus*.

Seen on two occasions in the mountains in the middle of March. The shepherds say that they often lose lambs by this Vulture in spring. A schoolmaster told me he had a stuffed Eagle, shot near the town, which, when I went to see it, proved to be the much moth-eaten remains of a Bearded Vulture.

2. GOLDEN EAGLE. *Aquila chrysaëtus*

I visited two eyries of a large Eagle in the mountains; one

nest was touched up with fresh pine-tops, but on June 12th was without eggs. The Eagle came within 100 yards once or twice; but as I was unable to shoot it, I cannot say for certain that it was of this species. The following year a shepherd told me he had taken an egg from a nest a short distance from the one I visited; it is needless to say he smashed it.

3. WHITE-TAILED EAGLE. *Haliaëtus albicilla*.

Not uncommon on the large lagoons during the winter, where they prey chiefly on the wild fowl. I often saw a single bird in April and May, and was told by a fisherman that a large Eagle nested on the opposite coast of Sardinia.

4. COMMON BUZZARD. *Buteo vulgaris*.

Fairly common everywhere. I found six nests during the month of April.

5. SMALL PEREGRINE FALCON. *Falco punicus*.

Not uncommon during the winter on the east coast. On the 14th of May I found a nest containing three young birds nearly ready to fly. The following year, hoping to take the eggs, I visited the old nest in the beginning of April, but the birds had changed their quarters. Seeing the old birds about, I did not give up the search, and on April 16th found them nesting some two miles from their old home, but, unfortunately, the nest contained four young about a week old.

6. COMMON KESTREL. *Tinnunculus alaudarius*.

Very common during the winter, but do not all remain to nest. Took a nest of six eggs, quite fresh, on 29th April.

7. ELEONORA FALCON. *Falco eleonoræ*.

Several times I saw a pair of large dark-brown Hawks hovering about the sea-coast, first seen on 15th April. As I was unable to shoot them, it is uncertain that they belong to this species.

8. SPARROW-HAWK. *Accipiter nisus*.

Common in November, less so in the other winter months.

The only proof I had of the nesting of this species was an egg brought in by a boy on the 7th June.

9. COMMON KITE. *Milvus iclinus*.

Plentiful in the plains throughout the year, but I never found a nest.

10. HEN-HARRIER. *Circus cyaneus*.

A few seen throughout the winter. On April 14th quite a flight of these birds passed; I saw as many as five on the wing at the same time.

11. MONTAGU'S HARRIER. *Circus cineraceus*.

I saw a bird on November 17th which I have no doubt was of this species.

12. MARSH-HARRIER. *Circus æruginosus*.

Plentiful in all the marshes during the winter. One seen on June 21st, which was evidently breeding.

13. OSPREY. *Pandion haliaëtus*.

Fairly common on the lagoons during the winter. I found a nest on the 23rd April containing three eggs quite fresh. The nest was placed on a rock about 8 feet high, some 300 yards from the shore, in a small bay.

14. BARN-OWL. *Strix flammea*.

A boy brought in one alive on the 15th May; this was the only one seen.

15. LONG-EARED OWL. *Asio otus*.

The only one seen was brought to me by a man on December 18th.

16. SHORT-EARED OWL. *Asio brachyotus*.

I shot the only one seen on December 13th.

17. SCOPS OWL. *Scops giu*.

This small Owl becomes plentiful after the end of March. As soon as the sun has set they commence their soft whistling, often entering the villages. I found them high up in the mountains in May. I took a nest of four eggs on the 3rd of June, three of which were much sat upon, the fourth being nearly fresh.

18. COMMON SWIFT. *Cypselus apus*.

In 1883 first seen on 12th April, in 1884 on 8th April. When in the mountain-forests I noticed the Swifts entering the holes of the Great Spotted Woodpecker.

19. WHITE-BELLIED SWIFT. *Cypselus melba*.

In 1883 first seen on 25th April, in 1884 on 10th April. I found this species nesting in some inaccessible rocks in the beginning of June.

20. SWALLOW. *Hirundo rustica*.

In 1883 first seen on 16th March, in 1884 on 22nd March. A few seen going south on 16th November. Numbers remain to nest.

21. MARTIN. *Chelidon urbica*.

In 1883 first seen on 20th March, in 1884 on 21st March. Numbers remain to nest.

22. SAND-MARTIN. *Cotile riparia*.

In 1883 first seen on 11th April, in 1884 on 8th April. Never seen in numbers. Though the river-banks, in places, were suitable, I never saw any sign of a nest, or of a bird after the passage was over.

23. CRAG-SWALLOW. *Cotile rupestris*.

Fairly common and resident. With bad weather this bird comes down to the plains; otherwise it remains high up the mountain-sides during the whole year. I took a nest on May 13th with four fresh eggs.

24. COMMON NIGHTJAR. *Caprimulgus europæus*.

First heard on 12th May, though they must have arrived some time before. First eggs taken 28th May.

25. COMMON KINGFISHER. *Alcedo ispida*.

Numbers seen during the winter, but they began to get scarce after the end of January.

26. COMMON BEE-EATER. *Merops apiaster*.

In 1883 first seen on 19th April, in 1884 on 14th April. About the middle of April, the natives told me that it was the time that the Bee-eaters arrive, and a day or two after-

wards the first company put in their appearance, flying high over the plain, and uttering their monotonous note, *giep, giep*. On the 4th of June I opened several of their nests, which were bored in a level sandy field, running in about 9 feet from the entrance. All the nests contained their full number of eggs, which is from five to seven. The eggs were very dirty, being half buried in beetle's wings and remains of other insects, the whole nest being a moving mass of small maggots and various kinds of lice. The Bec-eater is rare on the west coast, the ground being unsuitable to their nesting-arrangements.

27. HOOROE. *Upupa epops*.

In 1883 first seen on 24th March, in 1884 on 30th March. Fairly common in the plains. I took two nests out of holes in stone walls; the first on 27th May, with six eggs, quite fresh. I found a nest in an old tree on 7th June, with four young fully grown.

28. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER. *Dendrocopus major*.

Common in the mountain-forests, often working down to the sea-coast in winter. First eggs taken on 20th May.

29. WRYNECK. *Iynx torquilla*.

Only two seen, one on 8th January; the other a man had just shot, on 17th January.

30. WHITEHEAD'S NUTHATCH. *Sitta whiteheadi*. (Pl. II.)

On the 12th June 1883, I left a small village to visit the nest of an Eagle which the shepherds had told me of. Starting at 4 A.M. with a mule and guide (taking provisions for two days), it was not until 2 P.M. that we reached the summit of the mountain. As it was close upon 6 o'clock before the nest had been visited, I decided to pass the night in a small stone hut (used by the shepherds during the hotter months). The next morning, wishing to get a shot at some Alpine Swifts, which were nesting in a high crag near, I got up early, and when returning heard a curious whistle, which I thought was that of the Crested Titmouse. After I had waited a few minutes a Nuthatch crept out to the end of a pine-bough



and was promptly shot. The bird being badly hit in the head, I skinned it at once, and thought no more about it until the month of October, when, wishing to know if I had correctly named a few small Warblers, I brought the skin of the Nuthatch to Mr. Sharpe, who assured me that he did not know the bird. At the end of the month, on the night of my departure, he wrote to me :—"There is no doubt your bird is a new species"*.

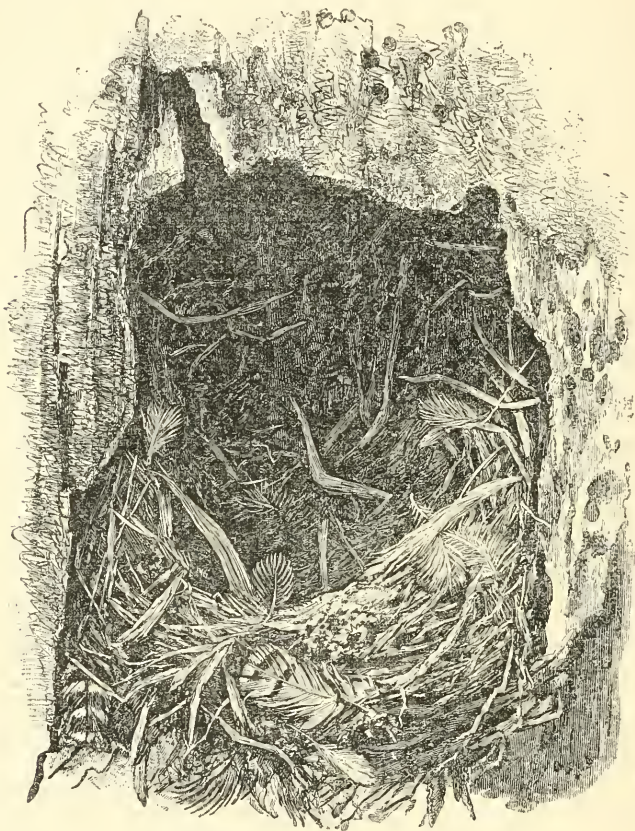
It was not until the 9th of May 1884 that I was able to make another trip. The first day I did not see a sign of the birds; but on the second, after wandering about until past mid-day, without seeing any thing but a few Golden-crested Wrens and European Coal Tits, I heard the same curious whistle, and looking about, soon saw and shot a bird which proved to be a beautiful specimen of the new Nuthatch, the head being jet-black, with well-marked and nearly white eye-brows, the underside of the beak being of a delicate blue, which soon faded after death. Knowing that the mate must be near, I remained quiet, and in a few minutes it shared the same fate; but great was my surprise, on picking it up, to find the black on the head entirely absent, the pale blue of the back running up to the base of the bill; this bird proved to be the female. A few hours later I came across a small band, three of which I shot.

On the 12th, provisions having fallen short, I was forced to return to my head-quarters; but on the 16th I returned to search for the nests and was most fortunate. The same evening I watched a pair, which I had noticed on my first visit, for some hours, and saw the female go twice to a very small and neatly-pecked hole in a very old pine-stump, some 20 feet from the ground. The following day I saw the male enter twice with nesting-materials.

It was not until the 20th of May that I found the second nest, and on the following day, whilst going to cut it out, found another, which I opened first. The nests proved in nearly every case to be most difficult of access, the trees being high,

* See Mr. Sharpe's articles, P. Z. S. 1884, pp. 233, 329, 414, pl. xxxvi.

very rotten, without branches, and much too big to swarm ; the once mighty giants of the forest—now but whitened skeletons, being in the last stage of decay.



Nest of *Sitta whiteheadi*.

The first nest took nearly three hours' hard work to reach, but once arrived at, was easily cut out ; it contained five fresh eggs. The second nest was in a much worse position and quite 40 feet high ; but by climbing up a neighbouring tree, with the aid of a rope I managed to swing to a branch, and soon cut open the nest, which contained five fresh eggs.

During eleven days spent in rambling about hunting for the nests of this species, I found no less than nine, three of

which were in holes from 70 to 100 feet from the ground, the trees in places nearly eaten through with decay ; so that it would have been foolish to have attempted to reach them.

This species spends much of its time pecking about at the ends of the pine-branches. When I opened their gizzards they contained many small beetles and other insects. The call-note is a soft whistle, repeated quickly many times, often ending with a peculiar hissing sound, which sounds like *sch-wer*, *sch-wer*. They were very fearless when their nest was attacked, the female often entering the nest and refusing to move until the entrance was nearly reached, whilst the male would take up his position a few feet above, examining everything that was going on.

All the nests found seemed to have been pecked out by the birds themselves, and in no case was clay used to make a hole smaller. The old holes of the Great Spotted Woodpecker were in hundreds in these trees, and though tenanted by Swifts and Titmice, the Nuthatches never used them. The holes were seldom neatly rounded, and in one instance only the sides of a large crack were pecked away. The nest is composed chiefly of strips of bark from the Mediterranean heath (which the birds themselves pull off) and moss, a few feathers, and a small quantity of hair. The sides of the cavity well padded, so as to form a cup.

The eggs, five or six, when blown, are white thickly speckled with *deep red* ; they are about the size of those of the Great Titmouse.

The nest figured in the accompanying drawing (p. 30) was cut out of a tree which, after I had taken the eggs, was pulled down with a rope.

31. TREE-CREEPER. *Certhia familiaris*.

Not uncommon in the mountain-forest. Besides being a large bird, the Corsican Tree-creeper is pure white below, like the specimens in the British Museum from the Riviera and the south of France. It is also darker above than examples from other parts of Europe, the ground-colour of the head being black ; but, unfortunately, I only brought one

specimen, which is insufficient to make exact comparisons with.

32. COMMON WREN. *Troglodytes parvulus*.

Fairly common in the mountain-forests. Found a nest with eggs on June 11th.

33. WHEATEAR. *Saxicola ænanthe*.

In 1883 first seen on 24th March, in 1884 on 30th March. I saw a pair high on a mountain on 12th May, so perhaps some remain to nest.

34. WHINCHAT. *Pratincola rubetra*.

In 1883 first seen on 15th April, in 1884 on 20th April. The Whinchat only remains a few days.

35. STONECHAT. *Pratincola rubicola*.

Common and resident, passing the winter months in the plains, nesting in the high valleys. Saw fully fledged young on 16th June.

36. BLACK REDSTART. *Ruticilla titys*.

Common during the winter months; last noticed on the 28th March. I was unable to ascertain if this species breeds in the high mountains.

37. REDSTART. *Ruticilla phænicurus*.

Very few seen, first on 24th March, last on 19th April.

38. WHITE-SPOTTED BLUETHROAT. *Cyanecula wolfi*.

Shot the only one seen on the 28th March.

39. REDBREAST. *Erithacus rubecula*.

Common during the winter. Found numbers nesting in the mountain-forests.

40. NIGHTINGALE. *Daulias lusciniæ*.

In 1883 first seen on 19th April, in 1884 on 7th April. This bird nests in numbers in all suitable localities. First eggs taken on 26th May. A Corsican gave me a good reason why the Nightingale sings both night and day during the nesting-season:—"Once a Nightingale, after building its nest and laying the eggs, went to sleep and forgot all about them; so finding that she was not provided with a memory,

the male sang night and day to keep her awake, until the young were fledged."

41. WHITETHROAT. *Sylvia cinerea*.

Scarce, arriving about 20th April. A few seen after the middle of May in the high mountains.

42. LESSER WHITETHROAT. *Sylvia curruca*.

Fairly common and resident. Found a nest with four eggs quite fresh on the 19th April.

43. SUBALPINE WARBLER. *Sylvia subalpina*.

Plentiful, arriving about the middle of April. The first nest was taken on the 6th May. This little Warbler spends nearly all its time in the thick scrub, sometimes mounting high into the air and uttering a short but pretty song, then diving back into the dense bush, its whereabouts being only discoverable by a short chattering note. The nest is often frail, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep, and $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter. It is composed of dry stalks, often a good many dead thistle-leaves, and lined with fine dry grass, sometimes with long horschairs. The eggs four, of a pale yellowish or greenish white, are speckled all over, but especially at the larger end, with light brown and slate-blue.

44. SPECTACLED WARBLER. *Sylvia conspicillata*.

Owing to the difficulty of distinguishing and shooting all small Warblers, this bird escaped me during my first year. It was not until the 13th May, 1884, whilst hunting up some thick scrub high up on a hill-side, that I found a nest like that of the Subalpine Warbler; but as the eggs seemed larger, I snared the female. The nest was composed of the same materials as that of the Subalpine, and almost the same size. The eggs were similar, but with more bluish markings. I noticed several other examples of this species which were every now and then mounting in the air to sing, often perching on the top of a small tree or shrub.

45. SARDINIAN WARBLER. *Sylvia melanocephala*.

Fairly common and resident. This bird seems to prefer a bush in a well-sheltered position for its nest, often close to a

wall. I found two nests, the first on 15th May, with eggs already hard-set. The nest is well made and solid, about $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch deep and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, composed of dry grass and other stalks, neatly lined with long horsehairs. Eggs four, of a very light green tint, thinly speckled with brown, and with a well-marked zone at the larger end.

46. BLACKCAP. *Sylvia atricapilla*.

Seems more numerous in the winter than in the summer. I found a nest with young a few days old on 29th May.

47. DARTFORD WARBLER. *Melizophilus undatus*.

I only met with this little Warbler in two localities in February 1884. I was unable to visit the place again, so cannot say if the birds remained to nest.

48. MARMORA'S WARBLER. *Melizophilus sardus*.

Fairly common and resident. I found it more plentiful high up on the mountain-sides, even in winter, than in the plains. I had the good fortune to find a nest with four eggs, a good deal set upon, on 24th of April. The nest was placed in a cistus bush only a few inches from the ground; it is very solid (even more so than that of the Sardinian Warbler), about $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch deep, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches diameter, composed of dried grass and other plant-stems, lined with long hair and fine grass. Eggs four, yellowish white, thickly speckled with light brown, and at the large end a dull grey zone. This Warbler spends most of its time chattering about in the thick machis, but in the spring sings a pretty song as it works hard with his wings high up in the air; it then suddenly drops into the scrub, where it makes its presence known only by a *chut, chut, chut*, uttered very sharply.

49. GOLDCREST. *Regulus cristatus*.

Fairly common in the mountain-forests.

50. FIRECREST. *Regulus ignicapillus*.

Fairly common. Remains in the plains throughout the year, though I found some as high as 2500 feet.

Mr. Bowdler Sharpe, writing on one of my specimens, says, "There is a distinct difference between it and English

examples, as it has a grey eyebrow and grey collar round the neck, neither of which are seen in British specimens. But these occur in some examples from Teneriffe, and again in those from Japan, from which it seems scarcely possible to separate the Corsican bird."

51. CHIFFCHAFF. *Phylloscopus rufus*.

A winter visitor; none noticed during the spring.

52. WILLOW-WREN. *Phylloscopus trochilus*.

Numbers seen on March 24th.

53. GREAT REED-WARBLER. *Acrocephalus turdoides*.

I only met with this bird on 7th and 8th of May, during the passage.

I shot at a small bird on 17th of November, in the marshes, with well-marked streaks down each side of the bill, which I have no doubt was the Moustached Warbler, *Luscinola melanopogon*.

54. CETTI'S WARBLER. *Cettia sericea*.

Common and resident in all the swamps. One of the happiest little songsters I have ever met with.

55. FANTAIL WARBLER. *Cisticola cursitans*.

Common and resident in all the swamps. Though I spent some time searching for it, I was unable to find a nest.

56. HEDGE-SPARROW. *Accentor modularis*.

Only a few seen during the winter months.

57. IRBY'S LONG-TAILED TITMOUSE. *Acredula irbii*.

Fairly common and resident, but more plentiful on the east coast. I watched a pair building their nest on 2nd April, which, in a few days, they left. Found two more nests, containing seven eggs each, on 20th April and 23rd May.

58. GREAT TITMOUSE. *Parus major*.

Common and resident. Found a nest with eight eggs on 27th May.

59. CONTINENTAL COAL TITMOUSE. *Parus ater*.

Fairly common and resident in the mountain-forests. I

did not find this species in the plains during the winter. I saw a pair building their nest on May 18th.

60. BLUE TITMOUSE. *Parus cæruleus*.

Fairly common and resident. I found a nest with six eggs on 14th May.

61. WHITE WAGTAIL. *Motacilla alba*.

Tolerably common during the winter months.

62. GREY WAGTAIL. *Motacilla melanope*.

A few seen throughout the year. Several pairs observed on the mountain-streams in May.

63. BLUE-HEADED YELLOW WAGTAIL. *Motacilla flava*.

A good many seen passing from 22nd April to 1st of May.

64. BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL. *Motacilla cinereocapilla*.

Met with a large party of these birds migrating on 16th April.

65. MEADOW-PIPIT. *Anthus pratensis*.

Common during the winter months.

66. TREE-PIPIT. *Anthus trivialis*.

Met with a small flock migrating on 21st April.

67. TAWNY PIPIT. *Anthus campestris*.

Plentiful after the end of April, and remaining to nest ; but unfortunately I was unable to find one.

68. ROCK-PIPIT. *Anthus obscurus*.

One shot from a small flock feeding in a marsh on 25th March.

69. MISSEL-THRUSH. *Turdus viscivorus*.

Scarce and resident. A few seen in the plains during the winter. I found this bird in the mountain-forests in the middle of May, with young fully fledged.

70. SONG-THRUSH. *Turdus musicus*.

Very common during the winter months ; none seen after 19th April.

71. FIELDFARE. *Turdus pilaris*.

A few seen during some very stormy weather from 12th to 16th March, 1883.

72. BLACKBIRD. *Turdus merula*.

Very common during the winter; a few remain to breed; I found nests with full number of eggs after the middle of May.

73. RING-OUZEL. *Turdus torquatus*.

The only one seen settled within ten yards of me during the great storm of 12th March.

74. BLUE ROCK-THRUSH. *Monticola cyanus*.

Fairly common everywhere, often coming into the towns during the cold weather. It was not until the 14th May that I succeeded in finding a nest, which was placed in a cleft on some very high rocks, and contained four young birds a few days old.

75. PALE-BACKED DIPPER. *Cinclus albicollis*.

A few seen on most of the mountain-streams. The breast is somewhat of a brownish red, like that of the Pyrenean birds, and shows an approach to *C. cashmiriensis*.

76. GOLDEN ORIOLE. *Oriolus galbula*.

First noticed on 24th April. A few pass; last seen 29th May.

77. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER. *Muscicapa grisola*.

In 1883 first seen on 17th April, in 1884 on 5th May. Remains to nest in numbers. First eggs found 22nd May.

78. PIED FLYCATCHER. *Muscicapa atricapilla*.

In 1883 first seen on 17th April, in 1884 on 22nd April. A good many pass; none seen after 7th May.

79. RED-BACKED SHRIKE. *Lanius collurio*.

In 1883 first seen on 28th April, in 1884 on 5th May. One seen on 1st January. This Shrike is very common, nesting in numbers. First eggs taken 29th May.

80. WOODCHAT. *Lanius pomeranus*.

In 1883 first seen on 24th April, in 1884 on 15th April.

Out of some twenty nests I found only one which had the salmon-coloured eggs.

81. ALPINE CHOUGH. *Pyrrhocorax alpinus*.

Several large flocks seen, but I was unable to identify them until the 16th March, 1884. The natives assured me that these birds did not remain to nest, but I am much inclined to think that they do.

82. COMMON CHOUGH. *Pyrrhocorax graculus*.

On January 29th I saw five of these birds, but having only small shot, failed to kill one. I saw five birds in the same place again on 16th March.

83. COMMON JAY. *Garrulus glandarius*.

Fairly common and resident. A boy brought me five eggs on 1st June.

84. JACKDAW. *Corvus monedula*.

A few seen in the winter along with the large flocks of Rooks which winter on the east coast.

85. CARRION-CROW. *Corvus corone*.

Rare; a few seen during the winter.

86. HOODED CROW. *Corvus cornix*.

Very common and resident; many nests taken after 26th April.

87. ROOK. *Corvus frugilegus*.

Very common on the east coast during the winter, begins to get scarce towards the end of February; not seen after the beginning of March.

88. COMMON RAVEN. *Corvus corax*.

Fairly common and resident; three nests taken in 1884 on 11th and 16th April and 2nd May.

89. COMMON STARLING. *Sturnus vulgaris*.

Seen in small flocks during the winter; not noticed after the end of February.

90. GOLDFINCH. *Carduelis elegans*.

Very common and resident. Nests found from 2nd May to 10th June.

91. CITRIL FINCH. *Chrysomitris citrinella*.

Common and resident. This little Finch in winter may be seen in large flocks about the towns, but with the spring retires to the higher elevations to nest; but on the 29th of April I found a nest on the sea-coast with young birds a few days old. On 14th May I found a nest with four fresh eggs; but higher up the mountains many birds had not built their nests by the end of May. The nest, generally placed in an arbutus bush, is composed of grass-stems, lined with feathers, being rather a rude affair in comparison with those of other Finches. Eggs four, like those of the Goldfinch.

92. SISKIN. *Chrysomitris spinus*.

Only met with on my second visit. I shot a male on February 4th: the birds remained until nearly the end of March.

93. SERIN FINCH. *Serinus hortulanus*.

Common and resident, but not quite so plentiful as the Citril. The Serin, unlike the Citril, Finch prefers to nest in the olive and cork trees, often quite close to the villages. Both birds have a very pretty habit in the nesting-time of rocking themselves about in the air, singing all the while, as though their life depended on it. I took two nests with fresh eggs on 8th and 16th April. The nest is a much more beautiful bit of work than the Citril's; it is round and neatly made, a good deal of spider's web and lichen being used, and neatly lined with short hair. The eggs four, like those of the Goldfinch, but smaller.

94. GREENFINCH. *Ligurinus chloris*.

Common and resident.

95. HAWFINCH. *Coccothraustes vulgaris*.

Fairly common and resident, but very local. I only saw one bird on the west coast. Took two beautiful nests, with six and four eggs respectively—on 16th May quite fresh, and 6th June much sat upon.

96. ITALIAN SPARROW. *Passer italiae*.

Very common and resident. Is rather a late breeder; the boys brought in many eggs quite fresh on 8th June.

97. ROCK-SPARROW. *Petronia stulta*.

Scarce and resident. Very few seen on the west coast, but one or two small flocks noticed on the east during the winter. I saw a few pairs, evidently nesting, in the high mountains at the end of May.

98. CHAFFINCH. *Fringilla cælebs*.

Very common and resident. Found first eggs 11th May.

99. LINNET. *Linota cannabina*.

Common during the winter; very few remain to nest. I watched a pair building their nest in a high valley on 17th March.

100. COMMON-CROSSBILL. *Loxia curvirostra*.

Fairly common in the pine-forests. In May I noticed a few families of six or seven birds flying about; though I shot several, none had the bright-red plumage.

101. COMMON BUNTING. *Emberiza miliaria*.

Fairly common and resident.

102. CIRC BUNTING. *Emberiza cirrus*.

Common in the plains during the winter. In the nesting-season the greater number retire to the higher elevations. Found a nest with young birds and one with four fresh eggs on 6th of June.

103. REED-BUNTING. *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

Only a few seen in the winter months.

104. SKY-LARK. *Alauda arvensis*.

Not nearly so common as the Wood-Lark; none seen after March.

105. WOOD-LARK. *Alauda arborea*.

Seen in flocks during the winter. I found numbers of nests after 13th May.

106. SHORT-TOED LARK. *Calandrella brachydactyla*.

Only a few seen on the east, but on 24th June in numbers on the west coast. I found two eggs on that date.

107. COMMON CUCKOO. *Cuculus canorus*.

In 1883 first seen on 15th April, in 1884 on 4th April. Common. I took five eggs from the nests of the Subalpine Warbler on May 17th and other dates.

108. ROCK-DOVE. *Columba livia*.

Fairly common and resident. Nesting in numbers. Took fresh eggs on May 18th.

109. RING-DOVE. *Columba palumbus*.

Common during the winter; found a few nesting in the mountain-forests in May.

110. TURTLE-DOVE. *Turtur communis*.

In 1883 first seen on 16th April, in 1884 on 22nd April, after which dates they became very common. First eggs found May 18th.

111. RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE. *Caccabis rufa*.

A few coveys seen, but these birds are shot down and poached at all seasons.

112. COMMON QUAIL. *Coturnix communis*.

Not uncommon on the east coast, where a good many are resident. First eggs found on 8th May.

113. COMMON PHEASANT. *Phasianus colchicus*.

I believe at one time fairly common, but now only to be found on the plain of Fiumorbo. Only two were shot during two months spent in the neighbourhood.

114. STONE-CURLEW. *Ædicnemus scolopax*.

Only met with on a sandy plain at the head of the Gulf of Ajaccio. Thinking they might be resident, I visited the plain on 21st June, and, as I expected, turned up several pairs.

115. GOLDEN PLOVER. *Charadrius plumialis*.

Abundant during the winter on the east coast.

116. KENTISH PLOVER. *Ægialitis cantiana*.

Fairly common and resident. In the winter families of five may be seen. In April I found a few pairs in every sandy bay, and eggs were taken on 23rd and 28th of that month.

117. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER. *Ægialitis curonica*.

One shot on 27th April, in company with two or three others, were the only ones seen.

118. LAPWING. *Vanellus vulgaris*.

Very common during the winter; not noticed after March 14th.

119. OYSTER-CATCHER. *Hematopus ostralegus*.

Only once seen at the mouth of a river on the evening of 26th April.

120. BLACK-WINGED STILT. *Himantopus candidus*.

The only one seen was in company with a flock of Green-shanks on 30th April.

121. WOODCOCK. *Scolopax rusticula*.

Woodcocks are plentiful in the months of December and January. Owing to the thickness of the machis but poor sport is to be obtained; three or four a day would be thought very good.

122. GREAT SNIPE. *Gallinago major*.

I only met with three, one of which I shot on 25th March.

123. COMMON SNIPE. *Gallinago caelestis*.

Plentiful in November and March. A good many remain throughout the winter. I saw the last on 30th April.

124. JACK SNIPE. *Limnocryptes gallinula*.

Common in February on the east coast, where this species predominates. Last seen 27th March.

125. DUNLIN. *Tringa alpina*.

A few noticed during the winter on the east coast. I shot one on 16th March.

126. LITTLE STINT. *Tringa minuta*.

Only three or four seen. I shot a pair well advanced in their summer plumage on 7th May.

127. TEMMINCK'S STINT. *Tringa temmincki*.

A pair seen on 7th May, one of which I shot.

128. PYGMY CURLEW. *Tringa subarquata*.

This bird passes in small flocks of from three to fifteen in number. On 8th May 1883 I shot three, one in good summer plumage; on the 16th May I saw a large flock all in the red plumage. On 7th May 1884 I saw a small flock and shot one in full summer dress.

129. RUFF. *Machetes pugnax*.

Saw several small flocks from 15th to 28th of April.

130. COMMON SANDPIPER. *Tringoides hypoleucus*.

Fairly common during the winter. None noticed after 30th April.

131. GREEN SANDPIPER. *Helodromas ochropus*.

A few seen during the winter, one as late as 28th May.

132. WOOD-SANDPIPER. *Totanus glareola*.

First observed on April 12th, and from time to time until 28th May.

133. REDSHANK. *Totanus calidris*.

A few seen during the winter on the lagoons. Last seen on 2nd June.

134. GREENSHANK. *Totanus canescens*.

A few seen during the winter. In 1883 and 1884 a good many passed on 8th of May.

135. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT. *Limosa ægocephala*?

I saw a Godwit on 23rd April along with a Greenshank. When it flew it seemed to be of this species; but as I was unable to shoot it, I cannot say for certain.

136. COMMON CURLEW. *Numenius arquata*.

Fairly common during the winter months. Last seen 11th May.

137. COMMON HERON. *Ardea cinerea*.

Not uncommon on the east coast during the winter. I think they must nest in Corsica, as I saw a few as late as the 25th April.

138. PURPLE HERON. *Ardea purpurea*.

Common on the east coast from 14th to 27th April; not observed later.

139. LITTLE EGRET. *Ardea garzetta*.

Only two seen, on 19th April. After hunting them for two days I shot one on 21st; the other remained in the neighbourhood until the 28th April. As my bird was badly shot I made a rough skin of it, which I handed over to Mr. Sharpe. Mr. Howard Saunders, who has examined the specimen, identifies it as *A. garzetta*.

140. SQUACCO HERON. *Ardea ralloides*.

Only one seen, on 25th April.

141. NIGHT-HERON. *Nycticorax griseus*.

A small flock of eight arrived on 14th April; from time to time one or two more were added, until they were fourteen in number. Not seen after 23rd April.

142. BITTERN. *Botaurus stellaris*.

Seen on 13th and 14th December. One sent to me on 23rd February.

143. WHITE STORK. *Ciconia alba*.

Only one seen, on 2nd April, which had disappeared the next morning.

144. FLAMINGO. *Phænicopterus roseus*.

Though I never met with this bird myself, many natives gave me an accurate description of it.

145. WATER-RAIL. *Rallus aquaticus*.

Common during the winter. Last noticed on 15th April. It is very likely that they remain to nest.

146. SPOTTED CRAKE. *Porzana maruetta*.

Passes about the middle of March.

147. MOOR-HEN. *Gallinula chloropus*.

Common during the winter; numbers remain to nest.

148. COMMON COOT. *Fulica atra*.

Some years Coots swarm on the lagoons on the east coast,

but in 1884 I only counted sixteen, while in the same lagoon the year before they were in hundreds. A good many remain to breed.

149. — GOOSE. *Anser*, sp. inc.

On both my visits I saw a flock of wild Geese on the east coast. None remained after the beginning of March. As far as I could make out with my glass, they were either Grey Lag-, Bean-, or Pink-footed Geese.

150. WILD DUCK. *Anas boscas*.

Plentiful during the winter. A good many remain to nest. Found young first out on 27th April.

151. GADWALL. *Chaulelasmus streperus*.

The only one seen I shot on flight on 11th February. No doubt it is plentiful, but it is impossible to distinguish the different species of Ducks which swarm at times on the lagoons.

152. SHOVELLER. *Spatula clypeata*.

Shot the first seen on 30th November; a few others seen during the winter. It was not until the end of February and beginning of March that they became very plentiful.

153. COMMON TEAL. *Querquedula crecca*.

Very common throughout the whole winter.

154. GARGANEY. *Querquedula circia*.

None noticed until 5th March, after that date they became common. Three shot on 22nd March were all males. Last noticed on April 18th.

155. PINTAIL. *Dafila acuta*.

Common on the lagoons in February and March. Several of those shot were young males, just changing their plumage.

156. WIGEON. *Mareca penelope*.

Plentiful throughout the winter until the beginning of March.

157. POCHARD. *Fuligula ferina*.

Very plentiful in February and in the beginning of March.

158. SCAUP. *Fuligula marila*.

Fairly common in winter. A female shot.

159. TUFTED DUCK. *Fuligula cristata*.

More plentiful on the rush-covered ponds than on the lagoons. A male shot.

160. GOLDENEYE. *Clangula glaucion*.

A female seen in December and February. The only examples noticed were males, in small parties of from four to eight. I observed also one of the Scoters, either *Ædemia nigra* or *Æ. fusca*.

161. WHITE-HEADED DUCK. *Erismatura leucocephala*.

The first of these curious Ducks I shot on 14th April; it was a male. On the 7th of May, in the same pond, I noticed two males and three females. The males were rushing after one another, every now and then stopping short beside the females, and hoisting their very peculiar tails straight in the air, spreading out every feather to its utmost, until the tails looked exactly like a hand with all the fingers spread out. They were still in the same place on 28th May, and, no doubt, had nests.

162. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. *Mergus serrator*.

A few pairs seen on the west coast from November to the end of January.

163. GREAT CRESTED GREBE. *Podiceps cristatus*.

A few seen on the lagoons during the winter. One shot on 7th March was in good breeding-plumage.

164. EARED GREBE. *Podiceps nigricollis*.

Very common on the lagoons during the winter. Shot one of a pair in full breeding-plumage on 19th April. Saw another pair on 18th May.

165. LITTLE GREBE. *Tachybaptus fluviatilis*.

Not uncommon during the winter. Last noticed 24th April.

166. COMMON TERN. *Sterna fluviatilis*.

Fairly common in winter about the port of Ajaccio. A few noticed on the lagoons.

167. SANDWICH TERN. *Sterna cantiaea*.

Not uncommon on the lagoons. A gentleman showed me two that he had shot near Bastia.

168. WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN. *Hydrochelidon leucoptera*.

Two seen on 28th May, during some very stormy weather, hawking some small dragon-flies in a rushy pond. Thinking they might nest I did not shoot them.

169. BLACK-HEADED GULL. *Larus ridibundus*.

Fairly common in the winter. I saw one on 30th April during a storm, in full breeding-plumage.

170. COMMON GULL. *Larus canus*.

Fairly common during the winter.

171. AUDOUIN'S GULL. *Larus audouini*.

I found a wounded bird on January 14th during a storm, and not knowing its value, did not keep it.

172. YELLOW-LEGGED HERRING-GULL. *Larus cachinnans*.

Very common and resident. I found them nesting in numbers on the small islands round the coast. The eggs, two or three in number, vary much in colour, from deep brown to light green. On 2nd May the eggs were in all stages of incubation, a good many young having already left the nest.

173. CINEREOUS SHEARWATER. *Puffinus kuhli*.

Fairly plentiful on the small islands round the coast, where, I believe, it is only a summer resident. On 2nd of May I visited their nesting-quarters, and though some birds were under the rocks; there were no eggs, while many were flying close over the sea in long strings, every now and then their white breasts flashing in the sun. On the 2nd of June I made a more successful trip. My spaniel proved very useful, pointing the birds as they sat under the rocks; in every case a fresh white egg was the result. There seems to be an attempt at a nest—a few feathers from the bird's breast, a small quantity of sticks, and seaweed loosely arranged. These birds proved very disagreeable customers, biting our hands severely, which were

often thrust under the rocks up to the shoulder. The entrance to the nest is difficult to find, often a rock in the short scrub, some distance from the water, is the chosen spot.

174. YELKOUAN SHEARWATER. *Puffinus yelkouan*.

This species was fairly common on the small islands round the coast. On the 2nd of May, with the aid of a small dog, I found eight eggs; all were placed under piles of large rocks which had fallen from the cliff above. The eggs were nearly hatched, the young in some having broken the shells. While *Puffinus kuhli* likes to nest under single rocks some distance from the water, this species nests only a few feet from high-water mark. The only difference between this and the Manx Shearwater (*P. anglorum*) is that all the under tail-coverts are dusky brown, instead of pure white.

175. *Pelecanus*, sp. inc.

I was assured by several Corsican sportsmen that Pelicans sometimes visit the island in winter.

176. THE SHAG. *Phalacrocorax graculus*.

Fairly common and resident; nesting very early, in numbers, on several of the small islands visited. All the young were swimming about, full-grown, with their parents, on 2nd May.

V.—On two Birds from Norfolk Island.

By H. B. TRISTRAM, D.D., F.R.S.

I HAVE received from Mr. E. L. Layard specimens of the *Platycercus* from Norfolk Island, referred to by him ('Ibis,' 1881, p. 173) as deserving of recognition and separable from *P. pennanti* of the Australian continent. There is no difference in coloration, either in adult or immature plumage, between the birds from the continent and those from Norfolk Island; but the latter are decidedly smaller in their dimensions.

The measurements of the continental bird are:—long. tot. 16·0 poll., alæ 7·1, caud. 8·2, tarsi 0·6, dig. med. cum ungue 1·2. Of the Norfolk-Island specimens:—long. tot. 13·0 poll., alæ, 6·7, caud. 7·0, tarsi 0·5, dig. med. cum ungue 1·0.